

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Insecta Mundi

Center for Systematic Entomology, Gainesville,
Florida

September 1995

News and Views

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/insectamundi>



Part of the [Entomology Commons](#)

"News and Views" (1995). *Insecta Mundi*. 155.
<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/insectamundi/155>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Center for Systematic Entomology, Gainesville, Florida at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Insecta Mundi by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

NEWS & VIEWS

The Center for Systematic Entomology plans to publish four Newsletters each year, but some information is printed in *Insecta Mundi* concerning changes primarily in our journal, as a matter of record.

Search for new editor continues. The CSE is looking for a new editor of *Insecta Mundi*. The candidates must have computer knowledge, and have access to a computer and a laser printer.

Journal management, primarily the concern of the Editorial Board, follows a flow diagram which will be explained to applicants. Most important is the ability to keep the work on schedule.

The editorial board hopes the new editor will start with volume 10, 1996. See below for information on the current status.

A younger person active in publishing papers on entomological systematics is needed. The new editor should be familiar with cladistic techniques and be able to evaluate papers containing data treated in this manner.

The editor will be provided with necessary supplies and postage.

Those interested please write to or call:

Ross H. Arnett, Jr., 2406 NW 47th Terrace, Gainesville, FL 32606; phone: (904) 371-9858; fax (904) 371-0962.

Status of *Insecta Mundi*. Manuscripts have been received for at least volume 10, nos. 1 and 2, 1996. Some of this already is set in type and will be available to the new editor. We now have on hand 19 articles. As always, we need book reviews (see page 272) and short notes to fill blank, even numbered, pages at the end of articles. This is an opportunity for almost immediate publication of 1, and rarely, 2 page articles.

Six month publication! We are now able to offer publication within 6 months of the date an article is accepted for publication, beginning with the June, 1996 issue. This is possible because we greatly increased the number of pages in volume 9. Also, as our membership increases, so does the number of pages in each issue (see also the Newsletter, recently sent, for more information).

Endangered species act "endangered." Apparently the Congress of the United States is experimenting with new ideas designed to correct some of the difficulties brought about by the current endangered species act. Several features of the act have caused difficulties during the past decades since its enactment. Some of these are:

1. Difficulty in enforcement. Land owners in particular feel that the act prevents them from using their private property. This results, under the cover of darkness, the removal of any species classified as "endangered" found on the property.

2. The selection of species to be placed on the endangered species list is not always carefully done. In some cases even economic pests have been placed on the list. In other cases, species of interest only to specialists who consider them "rare" have been placed on the list.

3. Protecting the species on the list does not cure the major reason for "endangerment." It is obvious to anyone with knowledge and experience that it is the habitat that is endangered, and because of this, particular species. But in the true sense of "endangered," all species are in trouble wherever man touches the land, water, and oceans. There is no other way. Man is now the most obvious dominant animal (maybe second to viruses and the cockroaches).

Final thoughts: 1. Make *your* land a haven for all species in your area. 2. Collect only for scientific purposes; leave displays of beautiful specimens for museums, unless you rear the desired specimens. 3. Look carefully at so-called "habitat preservation." Those responsible may be doing more harm than good. As Barry Commoner says: DON'T mess with nature!

Interesting headline printed along side of the above article is "**House OKs building more B-2 bombers.**" These cost several billion dollars each "even though the Pentagon said it doesn't need more of the radar-evading bombers."

Insect collection of international interest. A "sleepy" German town on the Switzerland border holds the valuable (scientifically) Georg Frey collection of 3 million beetle specimens. The collection was to go to the Museum of Natural History in Basel, but the Germans, who until now, refused to support the collection, have declared it a national treasure. But, they are willing to sell it for 1.6 million dollars, the asking price of the owner, Mrs. Barbara Frey. A "Beetles for Basel Association" has been formed to raise the money for the purchase of the collection.

Some readers may remember Georg Frey, a wealthy clothing manufacturer with an interest in beetles. Frey manufactured clothes in the garment district of New York City, and imported them into Germany even during World War II. He was a frequent visitor at the U. S. National Museum in the late 1940's, '50's, and '60's. He used a cane, wore a monocle, and dressed immaculately, as was to be expected.

He bought specimens from all over the World, housed them in a specially built building in München, and employed the well known coleopterist, Gerhard Scherer, now at the museum in München. The collection has many type specimens, deposited there by authors who published in the extensive proceedings of the Frey Museum, a series no longer being published.

(Continued from p. 64)

information into what has been published in the past. Critical information is left out. For example, a new species may be described leaving out characters needed to place the species in a genus, it is merely assigned to a genus with the assumption that it belongs there! Rare is the paper that enables the user to place the species in an existing key. Scratch journals as a benefit of membership. (In our case, free page charges is the most attractive benefit for authors.)

Personal identification through membership is different from professional status. Societies usually produce membership lists (we don't). Thus, a member may be found through the mails, by phone, and now by e-mail. This may be a benefit for specialists, and certain amateurs.

3. What does this contribute to the field? Would you like to have the membership list published?

Holding meetings is the greatest benefit a society can give, far more useful than specialized journals, but not because of the paper presentations. Symposia and poster presentations are usually well prepared and instructive. A good meeting must provide for informal meetings and hallway discussions. Let's face it, 10 minute paper sessions only provide plane tickets and are administrative nonsense at best.

4. Would you come to Gainesville or elsewhere to attend an annual meeting of the CSE?

No society can exist without free labor. The success of a society is entirely dependent on this free support, not by a handful of local members, but by a significant percentage of the membership. Unless there is a paid staff, most societies are run by the editor and treasurer. Members receive the journal and perhaps a newsletter. The treasurer deposits checks, pays bills, provides for mailing the journal and newsletter, and sends out membership notices. The president appoints committees, leads board meetings, writes newsletters, and checks the constitution to see if the society is following it. He also asks for committee reports.

5. Would you like a copy of the Constitution of CSE, and would you take part in promoting changes to improve it?

6. Should the irregular newsletter be continued? If so, will you contribute news? What else should be in a newsletter? Annual reports? Budgets? What else?

Originally local societies were formed to hold monthly meetings of the members. Some still do, and in entomological centers such as Washington, DC, Philadelphia, and on the west coast, these are successful. We do need to receive, so it is not only necessary for the membership to give, it is absolutely necessary for the success of the society.

7. Would you attend a monthly meeting in Gainesville? Daytime? Evening?

We have other activities. For example, we offer small grants and have a grants, gifts, and endowment committee.

8. What do you think we should do to promote this activity?

We have an annual election of officer. The nominating committee is entirely local, but as far as practical, we would like officers and board members to be representative of our membership.

9. Would you nominate officers if forms were sent?

We have set the membership fee based on our present membership and our activities. This, along with donations, seems to provide us with needed funds.

10. Is the membership fee about right; could it be increased to cover more activities (e.g., more grants) or is it too high and keeping out potential members?

Another activity involves the Lacey Act. We have a committee studying the effects of this act on systematic research.

11. Is this something of general interest to you, our members? Suggestions.

We hope to be considered a World-class society. Recently we have become a Direct Support Organization (DSO) of the Florida Department of Agriculture, and as such, received numerous benefits, including office and storage space, and the use of their facilities. However, this may make us appear to be a local society primarily serving the state of Florida. Even our name suggests this.

12. Is our name appropriate? Should this be changed?

13. Does our Direct Support Organization (DSO) status contribute to our goal of being a World-class organization?

If this analysis is correct, and for now, let's assume it is, where does CSE stand? Let us know by answering the above questions.

PLEASE SEND COMMENTS TO:

**Dr. Robert E. Woodruff, President
Center for Systematic Entomology
P. O. Box 140429
Gainesville, FL 32614-0429, USA**